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Forty-ninth session
Item 103 (a) of the provisional agenda*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention was opened for signature in New York on 26 January 1990 and entered into force on 2 September 1990, the thirtieth day after the deposit with the Secretary-General of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.

2. By its resolution 47/112 of 16 December 1992, the General Assembly called upon all States that had not yet done so to sign, ratify or accede to the Convention as a matter of priority; emphasized the importance of the strict compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention; approved the recommendation contained in the resolution adopted at the second meeting of the States parties to the Convention regarding the organization of the future work of the Committee on the basis of two sessions per year, each of up to three weeks' duration, and the establishment of a pre-sessional working group that would meet for one week approximately two months in advance of each session for a preliminary review of reports from States parties; requested the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee; requested United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their efforts to disseminate information on the Convention; and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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3. By its resolution 48/157 of 20 December 1993 concerning the protection of children affected by armed conflicts, the General Assembly took note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its third session and the recommendations contained therein concerning the situation of children affected by armed conflict; requested the Secretary-General to appoint an expert, working in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund, to undertake a comprehensive study of this question and to make specific recommendations on ways and means to prevent children from being affected by armed conflicts and of improving the protection of children in armed conflicts and on measures to ensure effective protection of these children and to promote their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration, taking into account the recommendations by the World Conference on Human Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

4. The Commission on Human Rights, at its fiftieth session, adopted resolution 1994/91 of 9 March 1994, in which it welcomed the constructive and useful results achieved by the Committee during its first five sessions; welcomed the consideration by the Committee of the reservations and declarations entered by States parties to the Convention when examining the reports of States parties; decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission to elaborate, as a matter of priority, a draft optional protocol to the Convention, using as a basis for discussion the preliminary draft optional protocol submitted by the Committee; noted the concern voiced by the Committee about the economic exploitation of children, and took note with interest of the set of recommendations adopted by the Committee on that issue; expressed concern at the increasingly heavy workload of the Committee; welcomed General Assembly resolution 48/157 concerning the comprehensive study on the protection of children in armed conflicts; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the Convention to the Commission at its fifty-first session.

5. As at 15 August 1994, the Convention had been ratified or acceded to by 166 States. In addition, 9 States had signed the Convention. The list of States that have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention, as well as the dates of their signature, ratification or accession, is contained in the annex to the present repot.

6. The third meeting of the States parties to the Convention was convened by the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters on 23 February 1993 for the purpose of electing five members of the Committee to replace those whose terms were due to expire. The following experts were elected or re-elected for a four-year term beginning 1 March 1993:

Mrs. Hoda Badran (Egypt)

Mrs. Flora C. Eufemio (Philippines)

Mr. Swithun Mombeshora (Zimbabwe)

Mrs. Marta Santos Pais (Portugal)

Mrs. Marilia Sardenberg Zelner Gonzalves (Brazil)

7. The Committee on the Rights of the Child held its third, fourth, fifth and sixth (special) sessions at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 11 to 29 January 1993, from 20 September to 8 October 1993, from 10 to 28 January 1994 and from 5 to 22 April 1994, respectively. In accordance with article 44, paragraph 5, of the Convention, the Committee submitted its biennial report, covering the activities of the Committee at its second to fifth sessions, to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session. 1/

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 41 (A/49/41).

ANNEX

States which have signed, ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child as at 15 August 1994

States	Date of signature	Date of receipt of instrument of ratification/ accession	Date of entry into force
Afghanistan	27 September 1990	28 March 1994	27 April 1994
Albania	26 January 1990	27 February 1992	28 March 1992
Algeria	26 January 1990	16 April 1993	16 May 1993
Angola	14 February 1990	5 December 1990	4 January 1991
Antigua and Barbuda	12 March 1991	5 October 1993	4 November 1993
Argentina	29 June 1990	4 December 1990	3 January 1991
Armenia		23 June 1993 a/	22 July 1993
Australia	22 August 1990	17 December 1990	16 January 1991
Austria	26 January 1990	6 August 1992	5 September 1992
Azerbaijan		13 August 1992 a/	12 September 1992
Bahamas	30 October 1990	20 February 1991	22 March 1991
Bahrain		13 February 1992 a/	14 March 1992
Bangladesh	26 January 1990	3 August 1990	2 September 1990
Barbados	19 April 1990	9 October 1990	8 November 1990
Belarus	26 January 1990	1 October 1990	31 October 1990
Belgium	26 January 1990	16 December 1991	15 January 1992
Belize	2 March 1990	2 May 1990	2 September 1990
Benin	25 April 1990	3 August 1990	2 September 1990
Bhutan	4 June 1990	1 August 1990	2 September 1990
Bolivia	8 March 1990	26 June 1990	2 September 1990
Bosnia and Herzegovina b/			6 March 1992
Brazil	26 January 1990	24 September 1990	24 October 1990
Bulgaria	31 May 1990	3 June 1991	3 July 1991
Burkina Faso	26 January 1990	31 August 1990	30 September 1990
Burundi	8 May 1990	19 October 1990	18 November 1990
Cambodia	22 September 1992	15 October 1992	14 November 1992
Cameroon	25 September 1990	11 January 1993	10 February 1993
Canada	28 May 1990	13 December 1991	12 January 1992
Cape Verde		4 June 1992 a/	4 July 1992
Central African Republic	30 July 1990	23 April 1992	23 May 1992
Chad	30 September 1990	2 October 1990	1 November 1990
Chile	26 January 1990	13 August 1990	12 September 1990
China	29 August 1990	2 March 1992	1 April 1992
Colombia	26 January 1990	28 January 1991	27 February 1991
Comoros	30 September 1990	22 June 1993	21 July 1993
Congo		14 October 1993 a/	13 November 1993
Costa Rica	26 January 1990	21 August 1990	20 September 1990

States	Date of signature	Date of receipt of instrument of ratification/ accession	Date of entry into force
Croatia b/			8 October 1991
Cuba	26 January 1990	21 August 1991	20 September 1991
Cyprus	5 October 1990	7 February 1991	9 March 1991
Czech Republic b/			1 January 1993
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	23 August 1990	21 September 1990	21 October 1990
Denmark	26 January 1990	19 July 1991	18 August 1991
Djibouti	30 September 1990	6 December 1990	5 January 1991
Dominica	26 January 1990	13 March 1991	12 April 1991
Dominican Republic	8 August 1990	11 June 1991	11 July 1991
Ecuador	26 January 1990	23 March 1990	2 September 1990
Egypt	5 February 1990	6 July 1990	2 September 1990
El Salvador	26 January 1990	10 July 1990	2 September 1990
Equatorial Guinea		15 June 1992 a/	15 July 1992
Eritrea	20 December 1993	3 August 1994	2 September 1994
Estonia		21 October 1991 a/	20 November 1991
Ethiopia		14 May 1991 a/	13 June 1991
Fiji	2 July 1993	13 August 1993	12 September 1993
Finland	26 January 1990	20 June 1991	20 July 1991
France	26 January 1990	7 August 1990	6 September 1990
Gabon	26 January 1990	9 February 1994	11 March 1994
Gambia	5 February 1990	8 August 1990	7 September 1990
Germany	26 January 1990	6 March 1992	5 April 1992
Georgia		2 June 1994 a/	2 July 1994
Ghana	29 January 1990	5 February 1990	2 September 1990
Greece	26 January 1990	11 May 1993	10 June 1993
Grenada	21 February 1990	5 November 1990	5 December 1990
Guatemala	26 January 1990	6 June 1990	2 September 1990
Guinea		13 July 1990 a/	2 September 1990
Guinea-Bissau	26 January 1990	20 August 1990	19 September 1990
Guyana	30 September 1990	14 January 1991	13 February 1991
Haiti	26 January 1990		
Holy See	20 April 1990	20 April 1990	2 September 1990
Honduras	31 May 1990	10 August 1990	9 September 1990
Hungary	14 March 1990	7 October 1991	6 November 1991
Iceland	26 January 1990	28 October 1992	27 November 1992
India		11 December 1992 a/	11 January 1993
Indonesia	26 January 1990	5 September 1990	5 October 1990
Iran, Islamic Republic of	5 September 1991	13 July 1994	12 August 1994
Iraq		15 June 1994 a/	15 July 1994
Ireland	30 September 1990	28 September 1992	28 October 1992
Israel	3 July 1990	3 October 1991	2 November 1991

States	Date of signature	Date of receipt of instrument of ratification/ accession	Date of entry into force
Italy	26 January 1990	5 September 1991	5 October 1991
Jamaica	26 January 1990	14 May 1991	13 June 1991
Japan	21 September 1990	22 April 1994	22 May 1994
Jordan	29 August 1990	24 May 1991	23 June 1991
Kazakhstan	16 February 1994	12 August 1994	11 September 1994
Kenya	26 January 1990	30 July 1990	2 September 1990
Kuwait	7 June 1990	21 October 1991	20 November 1991
Lao People's Democratic Republic		8 May 1991 a/	7 June 1991
Latvia		14 April 1992 a/	14 May 1992
Lebanon	26 January 1990	14 May 1991	13 June 1991
Lesotho	21 August 1990	10 March 1992	9 April 1992
Liberia	26 April 1990	4 June 1993	4 July 1993
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya		15 April 1993 a/	15 May 1993
Liechtenstein	30 September 1990		
Lithuania		31 January 1992 a/	1 March 1992
Luxembourg	21 March 1990	7 March 1994	6 April 1994
Madagascar	19 April 1990	19 March 1991	18 April 1991
Malawi		2 January 1991 a/	1 February 1991
Maldives	21 August 1990	11 February 1991	13 March 1991
Mali	26 January 1990	20 September 1990	20 October 1990
Malta	26 January 1990	30 September 1990	30 October 1990
Marshall Islands	14 April 1993	4 October 1993	3 November 1993
Mauritania	26 January 1990	16 May 1991	15 June 1991
Mauritius		26 July 1990 a/	2 September 1990
Mexico	26 January 1990	21 September 1990	21 October 1990
Micronesia (Federated States of)		5 May 1993 a/	4 June 1993
Monaco		21 June 1993 a/	21 July 1993
Mongolia	26 January 1990	5 July 1990	2 September 1990
Morocco	26 January 1990	21 June 1993	21 July 1993
Mozambique	30 September 1990	26 April 1994	26 May 1994
Myanmar		15 July 1991 a/	14 August 1991
Namibia	26 September 1990	30 September 1990	30 October 1990
Nauru		27 July 1994 a/	26 August 1994
Nepal	26 January 1990	14 September 1990	14 October 1990
Netherlands	26 January 1990		
New Zealand	1 October 1990	6 April 1993	6 May 1993
Nicaragua	6 February 1990	5 October 1990	4 November 1990
Niger	26 January 1990	30 September 1990	30 October 1990
Nigeria	26 January 1990	19 April 1991	19 May 1991
Norway	26 January 1990	8 January 1991	7 February 1991
Pakistan	20 September 1990	12 November 1990	12 December 1990

States	Date of signature	Date of receipt of instrument of ratification/ accession	Date of entry into force
Panama	26 January 1990	12 December 1990	11 January 1991
Papua New Guinea	30 September 1990	1 March 1993	31 March 1993
Paraguay	4 April 1990	25 September 1990	25 October 1990
Peru	26 January 1990	4 September 1990	4 October 1990
Philippines	26 January 1990	21 August 1990	20 September 1990
Poland	26 January 1990	7 June 1991	7 July 1991
Portugal	26 January 1990	21 September 1990	21 October 1990
Qatar	8 December 1992		
Republic of Korea	25 September 1990	20 November 1991	20 December 1991
Republic of Moldova		26 January 1993 a/	25 February 1993
Romania	26 January 1990	28 September 1990	28 October 1990
Russian Federation	26 January 1990	16 August 1990	15 September 1990
Rwanda	26 January 1990	24 January 1991	23 February 1991
Saint Kitts and Nevis	26 January 1990	24 July 1990	2 September 1990
Saint Lucia		16 June 1993 a/	16 July 1993
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	20 September 1993	26 October 1993	25 November 1993
Samoa	30 September 1990		
San Marino		25 November 1991 a/	25 December 1991
Sao Tome and Principe		14 May 1991 a/	13 June 1991
Senegal	26 January 1990	31 July 1990	2 September 1990
Seychelles		7 September 1990 a/	7 October 1990
Sierra Leone	13 February 1990	18 June 1990	2 September 1990
Slovakia b/			1 January 1993
Slovenia b/			25 June 1991
Spain	26 January 1990	6 December 1990	5 January 1991
South Africa	29 January 1993		
Sri Lanka	26 January 1990	12 July 1991	11 August 1991
Sudan	24 July 1990	3 August 1990	2 September 1990
Suriname	26 January 1990	1 March 1993	31 March 1993
Swaziland	22 August 1990		
Sweden	26 January 1990	29 June 1990	2 September 1990
Switzerland	1 May 1991		
Syrian Arab Republic	18 September 1990	15 July 1993	14 August 1993
Tajikistan		26 October 1993 a/	25 November 1993
Thailand		27 March 1992 a/	26 April 1992
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia b/			17 September 1991
Togo	26 January 1990	1 August 1990	2 September 1990

States	Date of signature	Date of receipt of instrument of ratification/ accession	Date of entry into force
Trinidad and Tobago	30 September 1990	5 December 1991	4 January 1992
Tunisia	26 February 1990	30 January 1992	29 February 1992
Turkey	14 September 1990		
Turkmenistan		20 September 1993 a/	19 October 1993
Uganda	17 August 1990	17 August 1990	16 September 1990
Ukraine	21 February 1991	28 August 1991	27 September 1991
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	19 April 1990	16 December 1991	15 January 1992
United Republic of Tanzania	1 June 1990	10 June 1991	10 July 1991
Uruguay	26 January 1990	20 November 1990	20 December 1990
Uzbekistan		29 June 1994 a/	29 July 1994
Vanuatu	30 September 1990	7 July 1993	6 August 1993
Venezuela	26 January 1990	13 September 1990	13 October 1990
Viet Nam	26 January 1990	28 February 1990	2 September 1990
Yemen	13 February 1990	1 May 1991	31 May 1991
Yugoslavia	26 January 1990	3 January 1991	2 February 1991
Zaire	20 March 1990	27 September 1990	27 October 1990
Zambia	30 September 1990	5 December 1991	5 January 1992
Zimbabwe	8 March 1990	11 September 1990	11 October 1990

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a/ Accession.

b/ Succession.